

CLAYTON PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Monday, December 2, 2019

Center of Clayton, Meeting Room A

Members Present: Ira Berkowitz, Jim Craig, David LaGesse, Missy McCormick, Becky Patel, Eric Schneider, & Mark Winings

Absent: Ben Beinfeld, Stacy Siwak & Melanie Tamsky

Also Present: Patty DeForrest, Dan Krewson, Patrick Magee, Lori Rice, Toni Siering, Justin Whipple & David Willey

Approval of Minutes:

Minutes from the November meeting were approved as written.

Addresses from the Audience:

There were no addresses from the audience.

Shaw Park All-Season Recreation Complex:

Mr. Jeff King of Ballard*King presented a Marketing and Operational Analysis for the Shaw Park All-Season Recreation Complex to the Commission. Mr. King noted that his goal with the final document is to provide tools for the decision-making process for the Board and staff. Discussion followed, with questions/comments as listed below:

- Mr. Eric Schneider asked if Clayton High School hockey and lacrosse teams were able to give feedback. Ms. Patty DeForrest noted that we are confident that we know what hockey groups want, but what else should be considered. For example, what would SportsMonster (who manages some adult leagues for the City and Center) want? What are some trends they are seeing in St. Louis? What types of events could be held at the facility?
- Mr. Jim Craig suggested adult indoor soccer and Ms. Becky Patel mentioned that futsal might be an option since it uses a smaller space.
- Mr. King noted that a turf surface would provide a playable area during the “mud season”, which is typically early spring in St. Louis.
- Mr. Schneider inquired if there was a surface preference for other non-sports activities such as farmers markets, shows, music events, etc.
- Mr. Craig asked if the off-season surface (turf, sport court, etc.) would need to be covered. Mr. King stated he does not believe so.
- Mr. Ira Berkowitz inquired if Mr. King had come to any conclusions at this time. Mr. King noted that activities you can play on hard surfaces seem to be more feasible and would have a greater number of activities over turf.
- Mr. Mark Winings asked if the new facility would always be staffed? Ms. DeForrest stated that it would likely depend on the activity. If the facility was programmed with fees, then yes. Mr. Winings noted that he had always envisioned it as an open use facility. Ms. DeForrest noted that we could decide to operate on whatever we want.
- Ms. Missy McCormick inquired if there was a market for in-line roller skating. She believes the community needs something for teens to do after the winter skating season. Mr. King noted that a hard surface does give more flexibility for activities such as in-line skating.
- Mr. Schneider wondered if there was a maintenance benefit to either turf versus hard surface flooring. Mr. King noted that, in the event of inclement weather, turf generally has a drainage system where hard surfacing would not.
- Mr. Winings noted that having a cover or not could determine how the facility is used in the off season, as some activities may not be viable. Ms. DeForrest noted that we could still do many of the activities we have discussed, we might just have to change the timing of events, etc.

- Mr. King noted that we may need to consult Chiodini if there is a cover, as he has heard of hard surfaces becoming slick with condensation.
- Ms. Patel asked if the facility would be open for drop-in use? Perhaps for activities other than sports (board games, etc.).
- Mr. Schneider wondered what are trends in other areas of the country? Mr. King noted that there has been an uptick in stand-alone turf facilities, as well as tournament caliber hard surface facilities.
- Ms. McCormick asked what Steinberg Ice Rink will be doing in their renovation and in the off-season? Mr. King reported that they plan to shrink the oval of the rink size and add leisure ice with fire pits. Plans are to use the facility for yoga and a splash pad in the off-season.

Mr. King wrapped up the discussion by stating that he would return in several months to report back to the Commission. At that time, some decisions will need to be made about turf vs. hard surface, cover vs. no cover.

Director's Report:

Ms. DeForrest acknowledged Mr. Justin Whipple, Parks Superintendent, and his staff for the pumpkin/ poinsettia tree they created for the City. She noted that the pumpkins were used for food at the St. Louis Zoo and the poinsettias are artificial and can be reused from year to year.

Ms. DeForrest reported that the work at DeMun park is nearing completion. Mr. Whipple noted that staff will need to wait until spring to check the mister. The plastic on the doors on the restrooms was up during the stucco process and should be removed shortly. The bench and donor sign are scheduled to go up this week. The restrooms will be open during warmer days (like practices at Shaw Park).

Ms. DeForrest noted that work at the Center of Clayton is moving along, with the new addition anticipated to be complete in March 2020. Large scale work in the fitness center, weight room and lobby/meeting rooms is still to come. The Parking Lot Project continues to be problematic, as there were many underground utility issues.

Ms. DeForrest also reported the following: Oak Knoll #2 roof project is complete. The Shaw Park All-Season Recreation Complex went to ARB for conceptual review and had little feedback. The design will be scheduled to go back to ARB in a couple months. Youth recreational basketball league practices have begun, and games are scheduled to start the first weekend in January. The Hanley House has its holiday candlelight tour event this weekend, hosted by our new program coordinator Ms. Sarah Armstrong-Crum.

Old Business / New Business:

Mr. David LaGessee inquired if basketball would be accommodated in the Center's parking lot expansion. Ms. DeForrest stated that it was not feasible at this time due to the current parking constraints. Should additional parking become available, it could be considered.

Mr. Schneider asked for an update on the Master Plan process. Ms. DeForrest stated that replies to the RFP were due this week; the City has formed a selection committee to review the results. The hope is to have a firm on board in January, as it takes 12-18 months for the process to be completed. It is hard to say when the parks section of the Master Plan process will be without reviewing the proposals. Consideration is being given to revisiting the Master Plan Overlay for Shaw Park as a separate project in order to move forward on additional work in Shaw Park.

Mr. Schneider inquired as to the January meeting topics; should we discuss capital projects? Ms. DeForrest noted that Parks does not have much capital money for items other than routine maintenance in the upcoming years. The playground at the south end of Shaw Park is scheduled for replacement in 2021.

Mr. Berkowitz asked if there was a final design for the Maryland Avenue Park. Ms. DeForrest stated that it is nearly complete.

Meeting Adjourned at 8:33 pm

Respectfully Submitted By: Toni Siering